

REMARKS

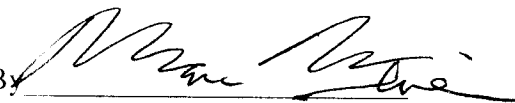
This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on November 6, 2006. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 12-17 are cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 18 are pending in the application.

Claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, or, alternatively, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over, U.S. 2002/0177074 A1 to Hoshi et al. and US 2002/0102488 A1 to Yanaka et al. Claims 12-17 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Since there are no rejected claims remaining in this application, this application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues remaining, the Examiner is invited to telephone Richard Gallagher, Registration No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008, in order to resolve them.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
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